

Serial No.: 10/734,022
Filed: December 11, 2003

Customer No.: 26,289
Attorney Docket: 2003US312

Remarks

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 and claim 8-25 under 35 USC 112 as not particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his own.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1, 8-25 under 35 USC 103(a) as being anticipated by Nishiyama et al (2004/0063827).

Claims 1, 9 and 16 have been amended. Claims 17 and 22-23 have been deleted. New claims 26-29 have been added. The total number of claims are believed to be 20, with 3 independent claims.

However if an additional fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any fee deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3309.

The applicants have amended claim 1 and 16, where the polymer now comprises at least one unit of structure 1 and at least one unit derived from a cyclo olefin monomer. The specification, on page 11 and 13, discloses the cyclo olefin monomer and its examples. Thus no new matter has been added. Cyclo olefin monomers are cyclic aliphatic moieties containing an unsaturated bond which when polymerized form the backbone of the polymer, where examples of cyclo olefins are norbornene derivatives, specifically t-butyl norbornene carboxylate (BNC), hydroxyethyl norbornene carboxylate (HNC), norbornene carboxylic acid(NC), t-butyl tetracyclo[4.4.0.1.^{2,6}1. ^{7,10}] dodec-8-ene-3-carboxylate, and t-butoxycarbonylmethyl tetracyclo[4.4.0.1.^{2,6}1. ^{7,10}] dodec-8-ene-3-carboxylate. Thus the polymer contains a cyclic moiety in the backbone of the polymer and also the unit with structure 1.

Serial No.: 10/734,022
Filed: December 11, 2003

Customer No.: 26,289
Attorney Docket: 2003US312

Nishiyama illustrates a monomeric unit of formula (Ia-25) where the two ester groups are bridged by an ethylene (CH_2CH_2) group. Nishiyama refers to only acrylate type of monomeric units, i.e. units that provide a linear aliphatic backbone. There is no mention of a cyclo olefin comonomer providing a cyclic structure in the backbone of the polymer. Thus Nishiyama does not disclose the use of the polymer of claim 1, where the polymer comprises at least one unit of structure 1 and at least one unit derived from a cyclo olefin monomer, especially a norbornene derivative.

The previously cited reference, Nishi (US 6,531,627) discloses a polymer comprising a cyclo olefin monomer comprising a bisester linked with a linking group, but does not disclose a comonomeric unit which is derived from an ethylene compound of structure, especially where the bisesters are linked by an alkylene group. The types of acrylates disclosed do not contain a bisester of the type shown in structure 1.

Thus neither Nishimura nor Nishi disclose the polymer of the structure of the presently amended claims of the application.

Serial No.: 10/734,022
Filed: December 11, 2003

Customer No.: 26,289
Attorney Docket: 2003US312

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration of it is requested. If the Examiner disagrees, she is requested to contact the agent for Applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant(s)
Sangya Jain
(Reg. No. 38,504)
AZ Electronic Materials USA Corp.
70, Meister Avenue
Somerville, NJ 08876
Telephone: (908) 429-3536
Fax: (908) 429-3650

Customer No. 26,289